

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1962 without my signature.

The Yurok Tribe is a leader among California's tribes. Their willingness to partner with the state and local governments to solve problems and protect the Klamath River Basin is commendable and encouraging. While I am supportive of the idea of authorizing the Yurok Tribe to enter into a joint powers agreement to facilitate improvements to the Klamath River Basin, I am concerned by this measure's use of ambiguous language and lack of specificity regarding the scope of the Yurok Tribe's participation in a joint powers authority.

Specifically, this bill is vague regarding the functions that the proposed JPA would perform and does not explicitly limit the Yurok Tribe's participation to a single JPA. Additionally, this bill is not clear regarding the responsibilities and obligations that would accompany the tribe's participation in a proposed JPA.

Although I cannot support this bill, I am directing my Office of Planning and Research to work with the author and the Yurok Tribe to draft legislation that would clearly define the role and responsibilities that would accompany the Yurok Tribe's participation in a JPA. Further, this legislation should specify the projects and activities that the proposed JPA would carry out, and limit the JPA's authority to that which is necessary to perform the specified functions.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger